

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USNATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2155

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O. - SUBJ - TAGS OMITTED ORIG)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT DA

SUBJ: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' FIRST FIVE MONTHS -

A SUMMARY

1. (THE PRESENT TELEGRAM IS A SUMMARY OF A MORE DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE DANISH DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE SINCE THE RETURN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO GOVERNMENT IN FEBRUARY. THE SEPARATE REPORT IS BEING CABLED ONLY TO THE DEPARTMENT.)

2. THE SECOND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT LED BY ANKER JORGENSEN HAS JUST COMPLETED FIVE MONTHS IN OFFICE. ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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SHADES OF POLITICAL POINION ADMIT THAT THE RECORD OF THAT

GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN BETTER THAN EXPECTED, CERTAINLY A VAST IMPROVEMENT OVER THE FIRST JORGENSEN GOVERNMENT OF 1972-73. IN THE FOLKETING SESSION JUST ENDED, THE GOVERNMENT MANAGED (1) TO SET NATIONWIDE WAGE AND PRICE PARAMETERS FOR THE COMING TWO YEARS BY MEANS OF A STATUTORY INCOMES POLICY; (2) TO SECURE APPROVAL OF ITS LIBERAL PREDECESSOR'S BUDGET WITH CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS; AND (3) TO STAGE-MANAGE OVERWHELMING PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR DANISH PURCHASE OF THE F-16. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO SUCCEEDED IN FINDING SHIFTING MAJORITIES OR PLURALITIES IN PARLIAMENT, BY DRAWING UPON THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY AND THE RADICALS, ESPECIALLY FOR COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS TO SUCH PERENNIAL CONTROVERSIES AS HOUSING POLICY AND REFORM OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. IN SHORT, AS PROMISED BY JORGENSEN ON HIS ACCESSION, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THEIR MINORITY STATUS AND HAVE PURSUED A PRAGMATIC POLICY "ACROSS THE MIDDLE" OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

3. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THIS PRAGMATIC APPROACH, THE JORGENSEN GOVERNMENT HAS ENJOYED A RESPITE FROM POLITICAL ATTACK DURING THE POST FIVE MONTHS. THAT BURGFRIED IS ABOUT TO END, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO ALL INDICES. OPINION POLLS INDICATE THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC POPULARITY IS NO LONGER INCREASING AS PARTY LEADERS HAD ANTICIPATED; FURTHERMORE, MOGENS GLISTRUP'S ANTI-TAX PROGRESS PARTY IS STEADILY ADVANCING AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MODERATE PARTIES ON THE RIGHT, ESPECIALLY THE LIBERALS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE POLITICAL BAROMETER IS FALLING TOWARD "STORMS AHEAD", WITH THE PROSPECT OF A MAJOR CONFRONTATION OCCURRING THIS FALL OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR ALLEVIATING THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM.

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